

The Groundplane

ARES/CERT/RACES Oh My!!

I just recently attended a Fremont ARES/CERT meeting chaired by our own Jeff Koger, WO6U. Fremont RACES officer Chris Burgardt was the featured speaker. Chris spoke about where he believes the RACES program is heading, though details are a bit up in the air at the moment.

One topic of discussion was the recent excitement over the clarifications on 97.113 as applied to people like Chris, i.e. emergency responders who are also hams. (Think Nurses, Police, Firemen, EMT's, etc.) One thing that is clear in this situation is that these emergency responders may NOT use their ham radios in the performance of their daily duties. Other implications are a little less clear, and the ARRL is trying to tie down what is and isn't okay. Stay tuned for more details!

Another point that was made is that you really should only sign up to serve one agency. The theory here is that you can only serve one master at a time. So if you are going to be involved in CERT communications, don't sign up to work for the Red Cross, or some other agency as well. The same applies to CERT versus RACES. Each group has a different function to play, and in an emergency you would only have the time to help one or the other - not both.

Jeff also handed out a list of minimum training that he expects for RACES. This is a moving target (and if anything it'll get larger, instead of smaller), but

if you want to register as a RACES operator you are going to need to go through training other than what you can receive on the weekly nets. What has been requested so far are on-line classes such as ICS-100 class available at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/> This particular class is titled "Intro to Incident Command System (ICS-100) for Federal Workers.

Some may ask "why do we need to be certified?" Well, look at the title of that first class. If you pass through this sequence, you are getting the same training on the subject as a beginning firefighter would receive. This accomplishes two major things. The first is that the agency can treat you as an "un-paid" professional. They know you have the same base training as their other employees in this area. The second more obvious benefit is that you actually will understand how things are managed in a disaster situation, and where you fit into the overall scheme as a RACES operator.

I've managed to take the IS-100 and IS-200 classes so far, and have three more to go to finish the training that Jeff is asking us to do. It took me roughly two hours for the first class, and maybe three hours for the second class. Each course has a multiple guess test at the end you need to pass to get the certification. The certificate arrives as an email to a link that you can follow to get a picture of the certificate in your browser. You just print it out! Training was never easier!



Special Interest...

- JOTA and USS Richmond
- H1N1 Flu Precautions
- Fire Prevention Week

Special

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H1N1 Flu Precautions

We encourage you to educate yourselves on flu prevention and symptoms, and begin practicing flu prevention immediately, both at work and at home with your families. In short, here is what you can do to stay healthy and stop the spread of illness:

- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap, or with alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Cough/sneeze into your elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Disinfect common surfaces
- Avoid close contact with sick people

We all hope that the flu season is milder than expected, and that each of us remains healthy throughout!

Historical Origin of Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the **Great Chicago Fire**, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

Get Ready for SBARA Elections

SBARA Elections are Coming!!!

It's that time of the year again!! Now is your opportunity to help build the direction of SBARA for 2010 and beyond. If you have never run for a position, please consider doing so. You will receive help from the existing officers and board members.

Positions to be elected will be the Four (4) club officer positions. They include; President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Elections will take place in November at our normal monthly meeting.

Please consider becoming a leader in your Club!!!

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From ARRL News

ARRL Board Adopts Guidelines and Recommendations on the Appropriate Use of Amateur Radio

On Friday, September 25, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial, non-profit and government entities, as well as recom-

mendations for additional steps to be taken by the ARRL to educate radio amateurs and others on how to prepare and train for public service and emergency communications while complying with the current FCC Rules. For the full story, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/newsstories/2009/09/25/11094/?nc=1>.

The Red Oak Victory Ship

(www.ssredoakvictory.com) in Richmond will host a Jamboree On The Air station, using the call W6BSA, during the 52nd JOTA, October 17-18, 1000-1500 local. Look for them on 21.360, 18.140, 14.290, and 7.190 plus or minus. For QSL card, contact Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club, 801 Payne Ct, Richmond, Ca 94806.

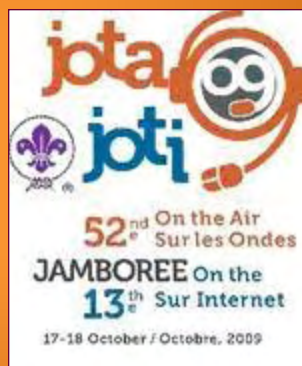
The USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club (HARC) will host JOTA station NB6GC from the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum in Alameda, CA. NB6GC will be open for Scouts visiting the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, Oct. 17. HARC expects to be in contact with SS Red Oak Victory on HF and 2 Meters, using the ORCA repeater on 146.880 MHz to coordinate contacts on HF and simplex channels. NB6GC will operate HF on 7.260 MHz and 14.263 MHz for QSO's with other JOTA stations. NB6GC will also conduct Internet VOIP QSO's on QSONET / CQ100 using the "frequency" of 14.263 MHz.

Comparatively few scouts, in relation to overall membership, are able to travel and participate in a National or International Jamboree. This annual world wide event always held the third weekend in October gives scouts an introduction to amateur radio, the opportunity to participate in an official jamboree, and a glimpse into how vast the world wide scouting movement is.

Local Girl
have always
are well
the air.

If you hear
you are wel-
a QSO.
interested
Ham Radio
share your DX experiences.

For more info on this event visit www.scout.org/



Scout Troops
participated and
represented on

"CQ Jamboree"
come to give them
Scouts are always
to talk to other
operators and to

Fire Prevention Week

In 1920, US President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

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Loma Prieta 20th Anniversary Symposium

Register Today!!

http://peer.berkeley.edu/events/2009/loma_prieta/registration.html

Speakers Announced for Oct 17th Loma Prieta Earthquake Commemorative Symposium

The confirmed list of speakers has been posted on the Loma Prieta Earthquake Commemorative Symposium Website at: http://peer.berkeley.edu/events/2009/loma_prieta/program.html

Date: Sat., Oct. 17, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Place: Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco

The symposium is being held at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco on Saturday October 17, 2009, the 20th anniversary of the 1989 earthquake, to investigate the progress that has been made since the earthquake and what work remains to make our built environment safe from future earthquakes. It will showcase a wide variety of topics including seismology, lifelines, geotechnical engineering, structural engineering, long-term recovery, government response, community resilience, earthquake prediction science and the future of performance based engineering.

The speakers come from a diverse array of earthquake engineering disciplines and represent many organizations including: USGS, ABAG, BART, Stanford, CGS, CalEMA, NEHRP, Caltrans, California Seismic Safety Commission, the City of San Francisco, UC Berkeley, and several prominent consulting firms (URS, RMS, Degenkolb). With such a broad range of expertise, the symposium promises to broaden your understanding of how past experiences from the Loma Prieta earthquake have shaped the many fields of earthquake engineering and provide a sneak-peak into the future of earthquake risk reduction science.

Register before SEPTEMBER 15th for the \$50 advanced registration price which includes breakfast, lunch and the full day of educational presentations.

Register at: http://peer.berkeley.edu/events/2009/loma_prieta/registration.html

"No one can control earthquakes

but each of us can reduce the damage

they do by taking certain actions."

Follow the 7-Steps to Earthquake Safety at: <http://bayquakealliance.org/prepare/7steps/>

Susan Garcia

USGS, Earthquake Hazards

345 Middlefield Road, M/S 977

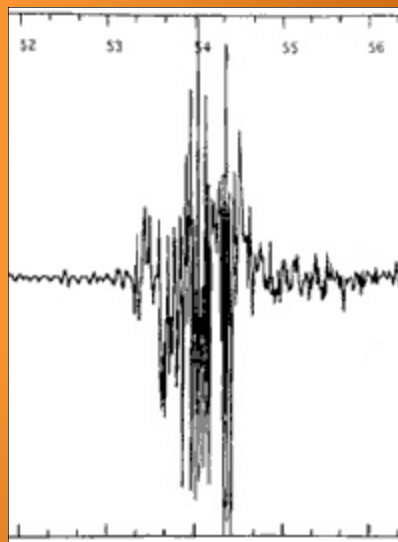
Menlo Park, California 94025

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca>

Email: garcia@usgs.gov

Office: (650) 329-4668

Fax: (650) 329-4732



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FEMA Classes On-Line

To those that may not know:

There is a long list of over the internet courses on emergency preparedness offered by FEMA at the site <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>.

I suspect of primary interest is "[Are You](#)

[Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness](#)".

There are a great many others to choose from. Please take a look.

Don Safer
Union City CERT and ARES/RACES

CERT News.....Saturday, October 10th. *Annual Pancake Breakfast...*

39609 Stevenson Place, Fire Station 9, 8:00 am. If you would like to help please let us know. Saturday, October 17th. *Ham Cram Course*. Please see attached flyer for details. You must pre-register if you want to take the class. Saturday, November 14th. *First Aid/CPR/AED* class. This class is full. If you are interested in the class we are offering a class on **Saturday, 23-Jan-2010**. Class space is limited to 24. Class will be from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Location is CERT Central, 3300 Capitol Ave., Bldg. A, south-east

corner. Class is open only to CERT members. There is no cost. CPR certification will be good for two years. To sign up please respond to this e-mail. Sign-ups will be taken on a first come basis. Don't forget to tell your friends, co-workers, and neighbors about our *PEP classes*. Our next PEP class will be on Wednesday, 23-September. If you are interested in having a PEP class at your church, homeowners association, etc. please contact Chuck at guaragliac@comcast.net. *Kay Diack Centerville CERT Assistant District Coordinator*

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast), we are happy to announce that we again picked up holding CW practice sessions. These sessions will take place:

**every Wednesday and Sunday
at 7:30 p.m.
on 21.175 MHz +/- 5 kHz.**

Note: this frequency may be used by Technicians, Generals and Extra Class amateurs - however for Technicians in CW only.

Please don't hesitate to check in. We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast

there! Just send a "bk" and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills.

We will always listen on the WA6PWW repeater (147.015 (+) MHz).

Ask there if you have questions or problems with your setup.

Listen there shortly before the round starts, usually we will announce the session.

Looking forward to meeting you on 15 meters!

Al, WT6K and Bernhard, AE6YN

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QRP Pacificon

QRPacificon 2009 will be held October 9 & 10th this year in Milpitas at the Crowne Plaza Ho- tel:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
SAN JOSE-SILICON VALLEY
777 BELLEW
MILPITAS, CA 95035

Events Schedule

- **Silicon Valley** surplus store tour Friday afternoon
- No host dinner Friday evening at 5:30 (location to be announced)
- Meet and greet in the hotel ballroom along with vendors and swapmeet ~7-11PM
- Saturday morning is the De Anza College Electronics Fleamarket: <http://www.electronicSFleamarket.com/>
Folks often arrive with flashlights before daylight to get the best bargains. The location in Cupertino is about a 20 minute drive from the hotel.
- Presentations at 10:30 and will have a great lineup of speakers. Presentations will run throughout the day
- **Jim Duffey KK6MC**
"VHF and UHF Operating and Contesting for the Be-

ginner and QRPer" **Arv Evans K7HKL**
"BITX20 Transceiver - It's History, The Discussion Group, Status, and Future Predictions"

- **Joe Everhart N2CX**
"Adventures in Flatloopland".
- **Bill Gerrey WA6NPC**
Adaptations for the blind: Ham radio and Test Equipment
- And, a presentation by the HFpack group on portable battery technology
- Lunch will be 12:30 to 2PM with presentations following until 5PM
- Saturday evening is dinner on your own 5-7PM

At 7 we will regroup in the ballroom for an auction. Due to time constraints, we will limit it to one item per seller. So bring something surplus to you that needs a new home.

We will also have door prizes and lots of fun so come out and join us for QRPacificon 2009.

Doug, James and the Norcal QRP Club
72/73
James
KA5DVS

As in previous years we will be offering pre-registration badges just for the asking. You will need a badge for the Friday events (it will be your pass). To sign up [click here](#).

SARL 80m QSO Party
TARA PSK Rumble Contest
German Telegraphy Contest

1700Z-2000Z, Oct 1
0000Z-2400Z, Oct 3
0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3

California QSO Party
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB
Makrothen RTTY Contest
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint
EU Autumn Sprint, CW
Pennsylvania QSO Party
FISTS Fall Sprint
North American Sprint, RTTY
Worked All Germany Contest
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW
Illinois QSO Party
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW

1600Z, Oct 3 to 2159Z, Oct 4
1600Z-1959Z, Oct 3
0000Z, Oct 10 to 1559Z, Oct 11
0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
1600Z-1959Z, Oct 10
1600Z, Oct 10 to 2200Z, Oct 11
1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10
0000Z-0400Z, Oct 11
1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18
0000Z-0200Z, Oct 18
1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
0100Z-0300Z, Oct 19
0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25
0001Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25

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Useful CW Characters and Q Codes

Here is a list of special telegraphy characters, abbreviations and Q codes used in CW transmissions. This list has been tailored a bit to what we use during our practice sessions.

Important Q codes

=====

Code	Question	Response
qrg	Which frequency are you on?	I am on ... (add kilo or megahertz)
qrl	Are you busy?	I am busy (also: I am at my work place)
qrm	Do you hear noise?	I am receiving you with noise.
qrn	Do you hear statics? crackling	I am receiving you with atmospheric noise (usually meaning the sound from far away thunderstorms)
qro	Should I increase power?	Please increase power
qrp	Should I decrease power?	Please decrease power / I am using less than 5 watts
qrq	Should I increase CW speed?	Please increase CW speed ("quicker")
qrrr		Emergency! (Like SOS, never use this except you really need it. And yes, that's three "r" characters!)
qrs	Should I decrease CW speed?	Please decrease CW speed ("slower")
qrt	Can we end our comm. now?	I will now end transmission.
qrv	Are you on air?	I am on air.
qrz	Are you ready?	I am ready for the next caller.
qsb	Am I fading?	I am receiving you with fading.
qsl	Did you copy?	Affirmative.
qso		(the running communication.)
qst		(broadcast message)
qsv	Can you switch frequency to...?	I will switch frequency to ...
qth	where are you located?	My station location
and...		
qlf?		Are you keying with your left foot?!

Bernhard, AE6YN
ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

HAM HELP: FREE IARU LOCATOR MAPS

Everyone loves getting something for nothing so here's one for you. Free IARU locator maps are available in PDF format for downloading. Maps are available for many nations on all continents. The U-S map includes Hawaii and Alaska. You

can find them at <http://iarumapsrussia.webs.com>.

Another article worth reading and discussing is titled Has Contesting Reached Its Peak appearing in the still available August issue of CQ Magazine. In it author John Dorr, K1AR, notes that even with a decline in the overall number of licensed radio amateurs world-wide

that interest in radio sporting or contesting is at an all time high.

Dorr's article looks into the likely reason for this interesting trend and postulates on what the future may be. It's a good read for anyone with an interest in radio sports or the overall future of our hobby.

The Groundplane

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(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

1525 W. Magnolia Blvd., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
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(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

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5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
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Jose, XE2SJB, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE

(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Jim, KJ3N, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO

8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John, W0IG, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

NEW LOCATION!

PHOENIX, AZ

10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
Corner of 43rd Ave & Peoria
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA

6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBIDGE, VA

(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH

(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93;
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SUNNYVALE, CA

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So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com



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Low Pricing!



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Low Pricing!



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- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

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- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
- 3 IF roofing filters

Call Now For Low Pricing!

The Groundplane

South Bay Amateur Radio Association

Founded 1974

**Mailing Address
Box 8401**

Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401

Web Site — www.sbara.org

President

Open Position

Vice President

Brad Douglas, KB8UYR

Treasurer

Don Amyx, N6DA

Secretary

Open Position

Newsletter Editor

Bill Artelt, WB9YVM

Webmaster

Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG

Quartermaster

Open Position

Program Facilitator

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm -

147.015 + PL 103.5

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner
for Dinner at 6PM

Mingle with your fellow SBARA members
and Guests!!!!

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Stat-

utes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fre-

mont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Announcements

**SBARA's monthly meeting is
October 9th. Beginning at 7:30pm**

**Our meeting location is at Hurri-
cane Electric. The address in**

Fremont is:

760 Mission Court —

**Come to the meeting and
bring your**

HT, HF Rig and Antenna!!

The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
P.O. Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401